

## **HARKIN'S LEGACY**

### **MAKING RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES A REALITY:**

Harkin has been the leading advocate for disability rights in Congress, and is the Senate author of the landmark *Americans with Disabilities Act*.

- Authored the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008.
- Authored the *Television Decoder Circuitry Act* in 1990, which created universal closed captioning in America.
- Expanded access to *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) services for children with disabilities under five years old, and created a transition program for children with developmental disabilities to attend college.
- Passed the Community First Choice Option in the *Affordable Care Act* to provide extra federal resources to states providing services to people with disabilities outside of nursing homes.
- Created the National Institute on Deafness at the National Institutes of Health (1988).
- Included provisions to increase employment opportunities for youth with disabilities in the reauthorization of the *Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act of 2014*.

### **TRANSFORMING FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND ENERGY POLICIES:**

Harkin has enacted forward-looking farm policy that conserves our national resources, invests in renewable energy, and expands opportunity for family farmers.

- Created the Conservation Stewardship Program, which rewards farmers for employing good conservation and environmental stewardship practices.
- Dramatically increased conservation investments for programs addressing soil erosion, water quality, wetland restoration, and wildlife habitats.
- Made renewable energy a core feature of the farm bill by authoring the first-ever energy title in the 2002 farm bill, and again in the 2008 farm bill, stimulating economic development of ethanol and biobased products.
- Created the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which provides free fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income children in schools.
- Reformed school nutrition programs to provide healthier food and promote child health by setting wellness, nutrition, and physical activity policies and guidelines.

### **CREATING A PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM:**

Harkin has worked to enact policies that keep families healthy at home, at school, in the workplace, and in their communities, transforming the United States' "sick care" system into a genuine health care system.

- Championed passage of the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA) and authored key provisions of the law including assuring full coverage of proven preventive services with no copayments or deductibles. Less than four years after passage, more than 105 million Americans have received these needed preventative benefits at no cost.
- Created the \$15 billion Prevention Fund in the ACA that provides a dedicated stream of funding for prevention initiatives.
- Authored provisions of the ACA that created workplace wellness programs supported by businesses and insurance companies and required nutritional labeling on chain restaurant menus to allow consumers to make informed choices.
- Tripled the national funding for Community Health Centers (CHCs), which provide quality and affordable health care to low income families across the country. Under Harkin's leadership, the number of CHCs in Iowa has increased from 2 to 14.
- Worked to eliminate smoking, introducing the first bill to give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate tobacco. Provided funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1994 for groundbreaking research into the impact of tobacco smoke. This research formed the pillar of the lawsuits that led to the Master Settlement Agreement of 1997. Over his career, adult smoking rates have been reduced from 35 to 18 percent.

- Tripled annual funding for the CDC, providing for investments in wellness and prevention, and new labs and facilities. Harkin is also responsible for adding “Prevention” to the CDC’s name.

## **PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMBATING CHILD LABOR:**

Harkin, an unwavering advocate of human rights, has sought to expose abusive human rights practices, worked to protect vulnerable populations, and fought to combat child labor.

- In 1970, as a congressional staffer, discovered and photographed the “tiger cages” in South Vietnam. Over the objections of his superiors, he published his photos in Life Magazine, exposing that South Vietnam was undeniably carrying out gross violations of human rights.
- As a first-term congressman, secured an amendment to the *Foreign Assistance Act of 1975*, establishing that foreign states that engaged in a pattern of gross and consistent human rights violations were not eligible for certain forms of U.S. aid. The “Harkin Amendment” remains in effect today.
- Exposed Villa Grimaldi, a political prison and torture center in Chile operated by the Pinochet regime, during a 1976 fact finding trip, and later secured \$1 million for the successful “NO” Campaign, a national referendum that ended the Pinochet dictatorship and restored democracy in Chile.
- Worked with the Clinton administration in 1999 to issue an Executive Order the “Prohibition of Acquisition of Products Produced by Forced and Indentured Child Labor.” Harkin helped President Clinton secure adoption of United Nations Convention 182, a treaty calling for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor, and led the Senate to ratification just 5 months later.
- Secured \$1.3 billion in funding for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB). As a result, approximately 1.94 million children have been rescued from child labor.
- Together with Congressman Engel (D-NY) in 2001 negotiated and signed a joint protocol with the heads of eight major chocolate companies to address the rampant use of child and forced labor in the cocoa industry. In 2010, they secured additional cocoa industry commitments and resources and set a new goal; to reduce the worst forms of child labor by 70 percent by 2020.

## **FIGHTING TO EXPAND VITAL, LIFE-SAVING MEDICAL RESEARCH:**

Harkin has consistently led the way in making investments in medical research that has had a remarkable impact on the lives of Americans and which will yield dividends for future generations.

- Together with Senator Arlen Specter and Representative John Porter, doubled funding for the National Institutes of Health.
- Provided the initial funding for an international project that became the Human Genome Project, which has led to the discovery of 1,800 disease genes, the production of more than 2,000 genetic tests, and the development of 350 biotechnology-products now in clinical trials.
- Led a successful 10-year effort to lift federal restrictions on stem-cell research.
- Created a Breast Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense. The program doubled federal research funding for breast cancer and funded the research that led to the discovery of groundbreaking drug Herceptin.

## **CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR A QUALITY EDUCATION:**

Harkin has worked to establish an educational system where no student is denied the opportunity for rich learning experiences.

- Increased annual funding for Head Start over seven-fold, to \$8.6 billion, and expanded enrollment to provide services for almost 1 million low-income kids and their families. Established the Early Head Start program to provide comprehensive services for kids and families from before birth to age three.
- Oversaw the passage of the *Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009*, which eliminated billions of dollars in wasteful subsidies to banks and redirecting that money to students and families.
- Doubled the maximum Pell Grant available to student borrowers, ensuring that college remains possible for low-income students, and increased the number of borrowers from 3.3 million to 8.7 million.

- Created the nation's first school modernization program and secured \$133 million between 1998 and 2010 in "Harkin Grants" to repair public schools in 179 districts across Iowa.

#### **FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S MIDDLE CLASS:**

Inspired by his father, a coal miner who died from black lung disease, Harkin has fought to rebuild the middle class, protect the rights of workers, and establish strong workplace protections and safety standards.

- Successfully advocated to raise the minimum wage five times, from \$1.60 to \$7.25, and is the leader of the current effort to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10.
- Led the effort to stop rollbacks of overtime pay for workers during the George W. Bush Administration, introduced legislation that spurred executive action from President Obama that restored the 40 hour workweek for low- and mid-wage salaried workers.
- Initiated investigation that led to executive action ensuring that companies receiving federal contracts abide by worker protection laws and provide safe workplaces.
- Secured more than \$100 million to create and support new Job Corps centers across the country resulting in 85 Jobs Corps centers nation-wide, including one in each of the 50 states, and 2 in Iowa.